

THE SENTINEL

tain Kidd, the Pirate.
Kidd's antecedents not much
own, except that he was a
and brave seaman. In 1697
proceeded to England in
to get a ship and the neces-
sary commission. Various difficul-
ties were raised by the Admiralty.
Bellamont got over these by
lending some of his friends to
write the money required to
get a ship and collect a crew.
The leading men in Eng-
land took shares in the venture,
amongst them was Somers, the
High Chancellor. Two com-
missions were obtained for Kidd:
ordinary letters of marque
enemies' ships, there being
between France and Eng-
land the other—an unusual
commission, to which
set the Great Seal—to cap-
tate. When the real char-
acter of Kidd's expedition was dis-
covered, the granting of these com-
missions was made the pretext for
an attack upon the Govern-
ment. Somers's political oppo-
sition, the King was in-
clined to make a grant to Bella-
mont and his fellow subscribers,
the pirate goods that Kidd
captured, reserving to the
crown the tenth thereof.
Adventure galley was
and Kidd took command.
After sailing, some of his
were pressed for the navy;
because seamen were
had in England, or be-
cause he preferred a crew of his
countrymen, Kidd sailed for
New York to complete his
complement. There he
up his crew to 154 men,
of whom were some of the
notorious pirates in the col-
ony. Whatever Kidd's intentions
time may have been, it was
those in the colony what
probable issue of the expedi-
tion would be; and the home Gov-
ernment was warned that, by com-
mission, those who had joined
intended in one way or an-
other to make money out of the
that Kidd would never be
govern them. From New
York he sailed for the Indian
islands in a short time the ships
of the India Company brought
news that, far from putting
Kidd's crew to sea, he had turned
himself. The Red Sea, the
Malacca, and the coasts
were his cruising ground,
Madagascar was his head-
quarters. The island was well known
as a port for pirates, and
he exchanged his booty—
jewels, silks and spices of
all kinds—for provisions, stores
and ammunition sent out by his
countrymen in the West.
This was this Madagascar
venture from New
York to have brought in a
large sum, \$100,000. To Madagascar,
Kidd took his prizes,
his cargoes and selling,
sinking the ships. His
the Adventure, soon
to be leaky and unsea-
worthy, abandoned her and
went on one of his prizes,
the Quaker, a merchant
vessel of about 500
tons, which had been advised of
Kidd's arrival on the coast, and
his plans to secure him. Hav-
ing been mainly instrumental in
going to sea what had turned out
a piratical expedition, he felt
his honor was at stake and
Kidd should be secured. Kidd
wrote to Bellamont a letter
stating his innocence, stating
the crew had mutinied upon
him, and he had been thrown
overboard. He had hopes of
Bellamont. To that
attached to Bellamont's
sentry with a present of
gold in an enamel box.
He had been, but before
gold, which had been
to the same quarter,
Kidd found himself in
heavily ironed. Bella-
mont to the home Govern-
ment full particulars of the
adventure, forgetting to remind
the State that, as Vice-
Admiral, he may be entitled to
a share of the effects, and
in any case his ex-
penses paid out of the same
treasury, and all Kidd's
board her, he secured;
showed a commendable
endeavoring to lay hands
on the Quetta Merchant.
Kidd got Kidd securely
in gaol, Bellamont's next
step was to collect evidence of his
guilt. He arrested him, Bella-
mont brought before the
Colonial Council for exami-
nation. Kidd protested his inno-
cence, and the same story he
told in his letter to the Govern-
ment. By the Adventure were
lost his will and with-
out it, Bellamont, how-
ever, that Kidd's demon-
stration was unsatisfac-
tory, and that he was
very suspicious. The
several witnesses as-
sured him before he landed
that he was a pirate, and
these were taken, directly in-
stead of home to England.
Massachusetts at this
could not be put to
rest, therefore, writes
instructions, and he re-
solved to send Kidd home
to be tried. Kidd
is done. Kidd
of Captain Daniel
Active, then under the
Admiral Benbow. The
treasure seized in the
inventory, to
Lady Bellamont's
and the Active,
his booty on board,
in England.

In 1701 Kidd was put upon his trial for the murder of Moore, one of his own crew, whom in a fit of passion he had killed with a bucket. He was also arraigned, together with nine of his crew, upon a charge of piracy. Kidd was convicted upon both charges, and his nine companions upon the charge of piracy, and all were sentenced to death. Five of the crew were subsequently pardoned, but Kidd and the other four were, on May 23, 1701, hanged at Execution Dock. To the last Kidd protested his innocence. Although he admitted having killed Moore, he alleged that it was by accident and not premeditated. The accounts of the trial, of which there are several extant, show that the proceedings were, according to modern ideas, not fair. He had no counsel upon the charge of murder; and time was not allowed him to produce a very material document—the French pass of the Quetta Merchant, which was detained by Bellamont. Although its existence was denied by the Court, a facsimile of it is amongst the Admiralty Court records. It is popularly supposed that the pirate's death was more terrible than hanging; that he was tied to a stake during the rising tide and there left until the water flowed over his head. There is no evidence amongst the records of the Admiralty Court that this abominable practice was ever in use in England. On the contrary, there are documents of the sixteenth century showing that pirates were hanged; and it is certain that Kidd and his companions suffered that death.

The most curious document amongst the Admiralty Court records is the sale catalogue of Kidd's treasure. The catalogue itself is printed, but the names of the buyers, and the sums bid, are written in the left and right hand margins. The total sum realized, after deducting sale expenses and customs duty, was £7,390, of which £585 was restored to Bradenham and others, £500 allowed to Kidd to defray the expense of his defense, and £13 given to the gaoler for the keep of the black boy and girl. The total amount of the bullion sold was 1,231 oz. of gold, and 2,905 oz. of silver. The proceeds of the sale, after deducting the sums mentioned above, was £6,742. This sum was, in 1705, given by Queen Anne to Greenwich Hospi- tal.

JAPANESE MUSHROOMS.—Mr. Robert P. Porter, who has been conducting investigations into the industries of Japan, states that one of the most interesting studies in that country is the growing of mushrooms in the Shikoku Island, where most of the camphor is produced. This is an important article of export, mostly to China, and during the year 1895, the last year for which the returns are available, the quantity of mushrooms exported from Japan to all countries amounted to 1,780,597 lbs. Of the numerous species of edible mushrooms, the one called Shitake is the most important, being abundantly exported abroad and used for many culinary purposes at home. Logs which are used for cultivating this mushroom are various species of oak. The principal districts where this mushroom is produced are the provin- ces which compose Shikoku, Kiushiu, Wakayama and Shiozuka prefectures. Oak trees twenty-five to thirty-three years old are felled in the autumn, and incisions made with axes at intervals of 3 inches or 4 inches, the incisions generally reaching the woody layer. The trees are then cut into logs of 4 feet to 5 feet in length and left in dark secluded parts of the forest. After the third year, mushrooms make their appearance in the incised portions. When the growth lessens they are replaced by new logs. The mushroom grows at each season of the year, winter, spring, summer and autumn, but the growth in winter and spring is the result of artificial stimulus. The logs are steeped in water for a number of hours, according to the dryness of locality, and then struck with the pommels of axes to prepare the beds for facilitating the growth of the mushrooms. The autumn crop is the most abundant.

PRINCES' CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.—Writing of "Christmas with an Emperor," Nagel von Brawe gives this interesting description in the December Ladies' Home Journal of the ceremonies attendant upon the great feast day in the German palace: "The royal children have exchanged gifts chosen with much solicitous deliberation at a well known toy shop. Any one happen- ing to be in the shop at the time might have seen the Empress enter with her children, each pro- vided with his own purse, and completing his purchases aside so that the others might be surprised. The younger three princes de- manded the advice of their mother in their selections. The princes investigated everything, but upon inquiring the price generally found it too dear. "Three marks for this bookrack?" and with a glance into his purse, "No, that is too ex- pensive. I haven't over 75 pfennigs. What can you give me for that price?" And the shopgirl proceeds to show the princes something quite nice for the required amount. "But now the brothers and sis- ters have exchanged thanks for their gifts; the first impetuosity of the Christmas rejoicings has given place to a more tranquil examina- tion and inspection, and ladies and gentlemen of the court have made the rounds in a general state of admiration. Lackreys prepare a collation in the midst of the gifts, for which, however, the young people find no time. It fares with us as with all healthy children in the excitement attendant on Christmas eve, for they are healthy and genuine German children. The Christmas celebration in the Shell salon, the excitement and the rejoicings have produced their reaction on them, and at 9 o'clock even the elder princes are abed."

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